



Disaster and Emergency Management Resources

Terrorism Management Measures

Before a Terrorist Attack

- Be alert and aware of the surrounding area.
- Take precautions when traveling. Be aware of conspicuous or unusual behavior. Do not accept packages from strangers or leave luggage unattended.
- Learn where emergency exits are located. Think ahead about how to evacuate a building, subway, or congested public area quickly. Learn where staircases are located.
- The use of explosives by terrorists can result in collapsed buildings and fires. People who live or work in a multilevel building should review emergency evacuation procedures and know where fire exits are located.
- If you receive a bomb threat, get as much information from the caller as possible. Keep the caller on the line and record everything that is said. Notify the police and the building management.
- After you've been notified of a bomb threat, do not touch any suspicious packages. Clear the area around the suspicious package and notify the police immediately. In evacuating a building, avoid standing in front of windows or other potentially hazardous areas. Do not restrict sidewalk or streets to be used by emergency officials.

During a Terrorist Attack

- In a building explosion, get out of the building as quickly and calmly as possible. If exits are blocked, get under a sturdy table or desk.
- If there is a fire:
 - Stay low to the floor and exit the building as quickly as possible.
 - Cover nose and mouth with a wet cloth.
 - When approaching a closed door, use the palm of your hand and forearm to feel the lower, middle, and upper parts of the door. If it is not hot, brace yourself against the door and open it slowly. If it is hot to the touch, do not open the door and seek an alternate escape route.
 - Heavy smoke and poisonous gases collect first along the ceiling. Stay below the smoke at all times.

After a Terrorist Attack

- If you are trapped in debris:
 - Use a flashlight.
 - Stay in your area so that you don't kick up dust. Cover your mouth with a handkerchief or clothing.
 - Tap on a pipe or wall so that rescuers can hear where you are. Use a whistle if one is available. Shout only as a last resort. Shouting can cause a person to inhale dangerous amounts of dust.
- Assist victims. However, you should not attempt to rescue people who are trapped inside a collapsed building. Wait for emergency personnel to arrive.
- Were a chemical agent attack to occur, authorities would instruct citizens either to seek shelter where they are and seal the premises or to evacuate immediately. Exposure to chemical agents can be fatal. Leaving the shelter to rescue or assist victims can be a deadly decision.
- Because biological agents cannot necessarily be detected and may take time to grow and cause a disease, it is almost impossible to know that a biological attack has occurred. If government officials become aware of a biological attack through an informant or warning by terrorists, they would most likely instruct citizens either to seek shelter where they are and seal the premises or evacuate immediately.
- A person affected by a biological agent requires the immediate attention of professional medical personnel. Some agents are contagious, and victims may need to be quarantined.

Adapted from resource material developed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the US Department of Homeland Security